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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6912
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY
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RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/USFJ PRIORITY
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 6973
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 9328
RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 4243
RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 7485
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 0791
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USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
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SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - U.S.-JAPAN ALLIANCE AND
INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION

11. LEAD STORIES: Top stories on Tuesday morning included a Nikkei interview with Finance Minister Fujii, who said that the GOJ may issue additional government bonds to cover tax revenue shortages in fiscal 2009.

12. "Prime Minister Hatoyama Should Make Decisions on Issues Related to U.S.-Japan Alliance" The conservative Sankei editorialized (10/20): "Secretary of Defense Gates will visit Japan October 20-21 to hold talks with Prime Minister Hatoyama and other top Japanese government officials. While the focus of the talks will likely be the issue of Futenma facility relocation, the Hatoyama administration is faced with many problems that touch on the foundation of the U.S.-Japan alliance, including Japan's new contributions to replace the MSDF's refueling operation in the Indian Ocean and the issue of the 'U.S. nuclear umbrella.' In order to avoid jeopardizing U.S.-Japan relations, Prime Minister Hatoyama should make pragmatic decisions to resolve outstanding issues, including Futenma."

13. "Serious Discussion Should Be Held on International Child Abduction" The liberal Asahi argued in an editorial (10/20): "Voices have been raised in the U.S. and European nations claiming that more than 100 children have been 'abducted' to Japan.... The problem of Japanese parents whose marriages have failed wrongfully taking their children away from their countries of residence is becoming an international issue. More than a hundred of these cases have been reported in the U.S., the UK, and Canada, and there is harsh criticism that Japan is 'encouraging child abductions.'... Pressure from foreign countries is growing, as U.S. Ambassador to Japan Roos and ambassadors from European nations urged the Japanese justice minister on October 16 to sign the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.... It appears unrealistic to continue to avoid signing the Convention, as the number of international marriages involving Japanese nationals is growing....

It is time to hold serious discussions at home and abroad on the welfare of children of divorced parents."

ROOS